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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2011-0034]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex

Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), are sponsoring a public meeting on February 28, 2012. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions that will be discussed at the 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), which will be held in Budapest, Hungary, March 5-9, 2012. The Under Secretary for Food Safety and FDA recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 33rd Session of the CCMAS and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2012, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at FDA, CFSAN, Harvey Wiley Building, Room 1A-002, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20740. Documents related to the 33rd session of the CCMAS will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address:

<http://www.codexalimentarius.org/>.

Dr. Gregory O. Noonan, U.S. Delegate to the 33rd Session of the CCMAS, and FDA, invite U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address: Gregory.Noonan@fda.hhs.gov.

CALL-IN NUMBER:

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 33rd Session of the CCMAS by conference call, please use the call-in number and participant code listed below:

Call-in Number: 1(888) 810-5908

Participant code: 21317

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 33rd SESSION OF THE CCMAS

CONTACT: Gregory O. Noonan, PhD, Research Chemist, CFSAN, FDA, Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20740. Telephone: (240)

402-2250, fax: (301) 436-2634, e-mail:

Gregory.Noonan@fda.hhs.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT:

Marie Maratos, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue,
Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250. Telephone: (202) 690-
4795, fax: (202) 720-3157, e-mail:

Marie.Maratos@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure that fair practices are used in trade.

The CCMAS is responsible for defining the criteria appropriate to Codex Methods of Analysis and Sampling; serving as a coordinating body for Codex with other international groups working in methods of analysis and sampling and quality assurance systems for laboratories; specifying the basis of final recommendations submitted to

it by other bodies; considering, amending, and endorsing, methods of analysis and sampling proposed by Codex (Commodity) Committees, except that methods of analysis and sampling for residues of pesticides or veterinary drugs in food, the assessment of microbiological quality and safety in food, and the assessment of specifications for food additives, do not fall within the terms of reference of this Committee; elaborating sampling plans and procedures; considering specific sampling and analysis problems submitted to it by Codex or any of its Committees; defining procedures, protocols, guidelines or related texts for the assessment of food laboratory proficiency, as well as quality assurance systems for laboratories.

The Committee is hosted by Hungary.

Issues to be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the 33rd Session of the CCMAS will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters Referred to the Committee by Codex and Other Codex Committees
- Proposed Draft Principles for the Use of Sampling and Testing in International Food Trade
- Endorsement of Methods of Analysis Provisions in Codex Standards

- Provisions on the Use of Proprietary Methods in Codex Standards
- Report of an Inter-Agency Meeting on Methods of Analysis

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat prior to the meeting. Members of the public may access copies of these documents (see ADDRESSES).

Public Meeting

At the February 28, 2012, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 33rd Session of the CCMAS, Gregory Noonan (see ADDRESSES). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 33rd Session of the CCMAS.

Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_and_policies/Federal Register Notices/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_and_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp).

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Done at Washington, DC on: January 17, 2012

Karen Stuck,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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